

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version and the listing of claims.

Listing of Claims

1-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A seat belt retractor for winding and unwinding a seat belt, comprising:

a cylinder member capable of rotating for winding and unwinding the seat belt,

a shaft member disposed inside the cylinder member and having one end connected to the cylinder member to be rotatable therewith,

a plate fitting member disposed inside the cylinder member at an end portion thereof and connected to the other end of the shaft member to be rotatable therewith,

a locking mechanism disposed adjacent to the plate fitting member for locking the same, and

a plate member capable of deforming plastically and having one end attached to the plate fitting member and the other end engaging the cylinder member, the other end which engages the cylinder member initially approaching said one end in an emergency situation while deforming the plate member to absorb rotation of the cylinder member.

5. (original) A seat belt retractor according to claim 4, wherein said shaft member is made deformable inside the cylinder member, and said plate member deforms plastically when the cylinder member rotates relative to the shaft member.

6. (original) A seat belt retractor according to claim 4, wherein said cylinder member has a main cylinder portion for winding the

seat belt, and a thick cylinder portion formed at said other end and having an external diameter larger than that of the main cylinder portion, said plate fitting member having a substantially disk shape, and said plate member being connected to an outside of the plate fitting member in the disk shape at the one end and having the other end engaging an inner surface of the thick cylinder portion.

7. (original) A seat belt retractor according to claim 6, wherein said plate member is arranged such that the other end thereof engaging the inner surface of the thick cylinder portion is disengaged from the thick cylinder portion at a predetermined time after the cylinder member rotates relative to the plate fitting member.

8. (withdrawn) A seat belt retractor according to claim 6, wherein said plate fitting member includes a thin portion having a radius smaller than that of other portion thereof so that a distance between the plate member and the thick cylinder portion increases when the plate member is wound around the thin portion.

9. (withdrawn) A seat belt retractor according to claim 6, wherein said plate member has a narrow portion at a side of the other end having a width smaller than that of other portion.

10. (currently amended) A seat belt retractor ~~according to claim 7,~~
for winding and unwinding a seat belt, comprising:

a cylinder member capable of rotating for winding and unwinding the seat belt,

a shaft member disposed inside the cylinder member and having one end connected to the cylinder member to be rotatable therewith,

a plate fitting member disposed inside the cylinder member at an end portion thereof and connected to the other end of the shaft member to be rotatable therewith,

a locking mechanism disposed adjacent to the plate fitting member for locking the same, and

a plate member capable of deforming plastically and having one end attached to the plate fitting member and the other end engaging the cylinder member,

wherein said cylinder member has a main cylinder portion for winding the seat belt, and a thick cylinder portion formed at said other end and having an external diameter larger than that of the main cylinder portion, said plate fitting member having a substantially disk shape, and said plate member being connected to an outside of the plate fitting member in the disk shape at the one end and having the other end engaging an inner surface of the thick cylinder portion,

wherein said plate member is arranged such that the other end thereof engaging the inner surface of the thick cylinder portion is disengaged from the thick cylinder portion at a predetermined time after the cylinder member rotates relative to the plate fitting member, and

wherein said thick cylinder portion of the cylinder member has a projection projecting radially inwardly, and said plate member has the other end abutting against the projection.

11. (original) A seat belt retractor according to claim 10, wherein said projection has a contact end surface at one side thereof in a circumferential direction for abutting against the other end of the plate member.

12. (original) A seat belt retractor according to claim 10, wherein said projection has a contact end surface at one side thereof in a

direction that the cylinder member rotates relative to the plate fitting member for abutting against the other end of the plate member so that the plate member is urged in the direction that the cylinder member rotates relative to the plate fitting member until a predetermined time after the cylinder member starts to rotate relative to the plate fitting member, and the other end separates from the contact end surface after the predetermined time.

13. (currently amended, withdrawn) A seat belt device comprising the seat belt retractor according to claim 4, the seat belt disposed in the seat belt retractor and having an end connected to an auto body, a buckle fixed to the auto body, and a tongue slidably fitted to the seat belt and capable of engaging the buckle.

14. (original) A seat belt device comprising the seat belt retractor according to claim 4, the seat belt disposed in the seat belt retractor and having an end connected to an auto body, a buckle fixed to the auto body, and a tongue slidably fitted to the seat belt and capable of engaging the buckle.

15. (new) A seat belt retractor according to claim 4, wherein said plate member has a portion partly overlapping each other between said one end and the other end in a condition that the plate member is assembled initially.

16. (new) A seat belt retractor according to claim 15, wherein said plate member has a turning portion near the one end to form the portion partly overlapping each other.

17. (new) A seat belt retractor according to claim 4, wherein said plate member is arranged to change orientation thereof in a direction opposite to an initial direction by deformation thereof.